

# MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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## CROP PRODUCTION

This Annual Crop Production Report summarizes the results of the December Agricultural Survey. We wish to thank the more than 800 farmers who helped make this report possible.

**Maryland:** Timely rains and moderate temperatures throughout the 2004 growing season provided excellent growing conditions for Maryland farmers. Yields for the major commodities were near or reached record highs as producers enjoyed one of the most bountiful seasons in several years.

**Corn for Grain** production totaled 65,025,000 bushels, up 29 percent from 2003's production of 50,430,000 bushels, and more than double 2002 production. Yield averaged 153 bushels per acre, up 30 bushels from last year and just two bushels per acre less than the record yield of 2000. Corn for grain was harvested on 425,000 acres. Corn for silage production was 1.2 million tons, up 15 percent from 2003. Corn for silage was harvested from 60,000 acres, down from 65,000 acres in 2003. Yield averaged 20 tons per acre, 4 tons per acre more than 2003 and 8 tons per acre more than 2002.

**Soybean** production totaled 21,285,000 bushels, 34 percent above the 15,910,000 bushels produced in 2003 and 97 percent above the 2002 crop. Harvested acreage showed a significant increase from last year to 495,000 acres and yields averaged 43.0 bushels per acre, equal to the record yield set in 2000.

**Hay** production was up 6 percent from 2003 to 570,000 tons in 2004. This includes 132,000 tons of alfalfa hay and 438,000 tons of other hay. The average yield on the 45,000 acres harvested of alfalfa was 3.3 tons per acre, comparable to 2003. There were 175,000 acres harvested of all other hay which yielded an average of 2.5 tons per acre.

**Tobacco** production was 1.87 million pounds, up 17 percent from 2003. Yields averaged a record 1,700 pounds per acre. Harvested acreage totaled 1,100 acres.

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**United States:** Corn for grain production is estimated at 11.8 billion bushels, up less than 1 percent from the November forecast and up 17 percent from the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 2003. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 160.4 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushels above the November forecast and up 18.2 bushels from 2003. Both production and yield estimates are the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre.

**Soybean** production in 2004 totaled 3.14 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop in history. This is down slightly from the November forecast but 28 percent above the 2003 level. The average yield per acre is estimated at a record high 42.5 bushels, 0.1 bushel below the November forecast, but 8.6 bushels above the 2003 final yield.

**Maryland:** **Winter Wheat** planted acres for harvest in 2005 is forecast at 150,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from

## WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

2004.

**United States:** **Winter Wheat** seeded area for 2005 is expected to total 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004.

